

Matchmaker Program:

“Forming Partnerships to make the homes of low-income people more affordable through weatherization”

Background

The Matchmaker Program increases resources for low-income home weatherization by leveraging local matching dollars and resources from utilities, rental owners and other sources. Washington communities receive Matchmaker funds when they provide a dollar-for-dollar match.

The Matchmaker Program was created in 1987 to allocate over \$13 million in oil overcharge settlement funds over a period of several years. The oil overcharge funds have since been depleted. However, the Legislature has authorized the use of state capital funds each biennium since 1991.

Services

This program has helped to form lasting partnerships among local weatherizing agencies, utilities and other match providers. Weatherization services include: ceiling, wall, floor and duct insulation; diagnostically driven air sealing (such as caulking, weather-stripping and broken window replacement) to close gaps where the home's heat can escape; and heating system efficiency modifications. All this is performed according to established technical specifications and applicable building codes.

Performance Measures

The dollar-for-dollar match requirement of the program doubles the value of the state capital funds spent on low-income weatherization. In addition to the positive economic impact on local communities inherent in the business of weatherization, home energy use is reduced, on average, 25% in the homes weatherized under this program.

For more information:

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